



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry: History, Policy, and the Arts

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



The DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry: History, Policy, and the Arts

Our Mission

- To support, carry out, and advise scholarship in a broad range of issues relevant to the present day theory and practice of psychiatry.
- To use in-depth studies of the past to enhance understanding of the many complex matters that surround contemporary thinking and practice regarding mental health and illness.
- To foster an open atmosphere drawing on a range of interdisciplinary perspectives addressing important questions in the field.
- To bridge studies of the past with the science of the future, and connect the domains of science and the humanities.

Our Programs

- The world's longest-running research seminar devoted to the history of the field.
- Working groups on historical, artistic, and narrative practices surrounding the overlapping fields of psychiatry, psychology, and psychoanalysis.
- Forums and associated white papers addressing contemporary issues in mental health policy.

The Oskar Diethelm Library

- Over 35,000 volumes in Latin, English, German, French, Italian, and more, dating from the 15th century to the present moment.
- Periodical holdings including long back runs of rare psychiatric journals.
- Manuscript collections and unpublished papers from numerous organizations and critically important individuals.
- Hospital and asylum reports of the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Early and rare first-person accounts of psychiatric illness, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

Annual Report | July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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Weill Cornell Medicine,
Department of Psychiatry.
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Director's Report



After the upheaval of 1789, French Revolutionaries dared to restart the calendar at Year 1 and thus inaugurate their new beginning. Let's call this COVID Year II. This is the second annual report weighed down by a world-wide pandemic, and the first in which the entirety was ZOOM on or masks up. Meanwhile, a fragile peace settled in our divided home country after an election and insurrection. More than any other time in my adult life, it seems to me, we need reflection and deeper understanding of our rapidly changing times, knowledge that might help us resist the gyres of chaos of which William Butler Yeats once wrote.

As you will see from examining this Annual Report, in preserving and considering the past, we offer the possibility of such perspective. I spent the year preparing my history of xenophobia, *Of Fear and Strangers*, a work that owes its existence to this Institute. Our Richardson seminars commenced with a pre-scient examination by a psychoanalyst and philosopher of virtual and digital life, forces with which we must grapple as empirical reality becomes less accessible and perhaps less valued. If once we could agree, as they did at the Royal Society in 17th century London, that what we saw with our own eyes was a fact, what happens when what we see with our own eyes is not at all necessarily real? What new epistemologies can stabilize a consensual reality, and not have us spin off into digital hallucinations? In the upcoming confusion, the mind sciences need to play a role, as Ira Hyman did this year as a speaker to the Mental Health Policy seminar, by focusing on the social psychology of disinformation.

In this Annual Report, you will find more general evidence of intellectual ferment in the Richardson seminars, the Carlson Lecture, the Issues in Mental Health Policy meetings, and reports from three Working Groups, filled with some three dozen scholars who test out their ideas and gather valuable feedback. The seminar on Narrative Psychiatry and the Rush fellowship seek to offer this same kind of inquiry to Weill Cornell psychiatry residents. In addition, we inaugurated a new series of discussions on Psychiatry and the Arts focused on the imagination. I was in conversation on that elusive subject with great writers like our member Siri Hustvedt, as well as Paul Auster, Sharon Olds, Sonu Shamdasani, and Elliot Ackerman. Uploaded to our website, that podcast series found an audience and was awarded the Columbia Psychoanalytic Center's Public Communications Award.

During Year II, I have been deeply impressed by the intrepid, always thoughtful Nicole Topich who adapted to having no researchers, and dove into significantly upgrading digital access to the Oskar Diethelm Library. She made extraordinary progress by shifting the library's digital platform into a much more powerful one in the "cloud." In addition to overseeing exciting new purchases like a first edition of Jacques Lacan's thesis, Nicole completed a preservation project supported by a prestigious National Endowment of the Humanities grant. Read her report for all the great work and the honors from her professional peers that Nicole accrued.

There is much more in this Annual Report, as you will see, but I wanted to reserve my last word for the amazing Dr. Megan Wolff, who after thirteen years as a core part of our program, is moving upstate and therefore transitioning out of her job as our administrator. In 2008, Megan first joined us while still in her studies as a Ph.D. student at Columbia's Public Health program. She finished her Ph.D. and grew into an astute and distinguished policy commentator as well as a wizard of an administrator, whose kindness, omni-competence, and can-do attitude was never more in evidence than on March 14, 2020. Then, COVID forced us to become a digital institute overnight and we did, or I should say, Megan did. Megan's growth as a policy expert, focused on among other matters, the opiate crisis, led to her much valued "Fact Sheets," shared among journalists and other commentators. This work paved the way for her new job as a policy analyst on environmental issues at Bennington College. To my delight, however, Megan will not be fully leaving our community. She has agreed to stay on our voluntary faculty and continue to curate the Issues on Mental Health Policy series. So this is not goodbye, but bravo! Thank you for your devotion to our community. I believe I can speak for all when I say, we will always be grateful.

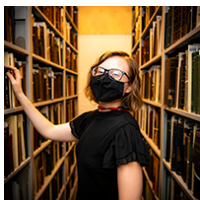
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'GM', enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

George J. Makari, M.D.



Oskar Diethelm Library

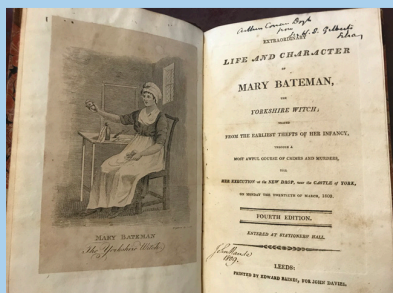
Librarian's Report



The pandemic has been an unexpected period of revitalization for the Oskar Diethelm Library. We have missed the engaging presence of our researchers, but have been able to use the time to improve access to the collections. Most specifically, we have augmented the availability of our online holdings. What our users cannot access on the page they may now be able to examine on the screen as a result of these efforts.

New Online Catalogue

The library's [online catalog](#) was updated to a cloud system, which features a carousel of new books in the library, more browsing and filtering options, and the capacity to create lists of books that can be downloaded in multiple citation styles. In addition to converting the catalog to this new system, I have been cataloging the backlog of books, with more than 2,000 monographs added to the database in the past year.



The process of adding these books has allowed us to revisit and highlight some of our most unique items, such as our 1809 copy of *the Extraordinary life and character of Mary Bateman, the Yorkshire witch*, which was signed and owned by Arthur Conan Doyle, and came to us by way of the library of W.S. Gilbert, of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Digitization

In this digital world we have also set about digitizing more of our own materials. This is the second year that we have published our Annual Report digitally as well as in hardcopy. With some effort, we have also digitized all of the past Reports and [made them available in full on our website](#). Readers can investigate our activities from the present moment all the way back through 1965. An increasing number of primary source documents are also available to researchers through our website. We are excited to make more of the collections accessible online and welcome any assistance with expanding these endeavors.

NEH Grant

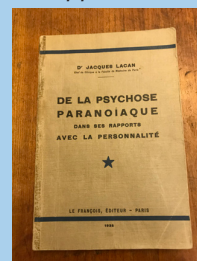
At the beginning of the year, we were delighted to receive a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions, which provided \$10,000 towards better preservation of the [Thomas Salmon](#) and [Clifford Beers](#) papers, among others. These two collections are among our most popular, and contain documentation about veterans of World War I and the nascent study of shell shock and PTSD. Funds from the grant were also used to help preserve the [papers of Donald Winnicott](#), the internationally-recognized British physician whose work profoundly impacted the field of child psychiatry. Winnicott's descriptions of the "good enough mother" and the "transitional object" remain in standard use today. We are happy to report that the correspondence and other writings of this luminary are well cared for on our shelves.

Updated Finding Aids

In our work to make the collection more accessible, we have once again updated several of our finding aids and made newer, more searchable versions available online. Researchers can now review the contents of several more collections from offsite, including the papers of [Marion Kenworthy, M.D.](#), [William Russell, M.D.](#), [Barbara Sapinsley](#), [John Millet, M.D.](#), and [Peter J. Swales](#). They may also peruse listings pertaining to the records of [the Society of Biological Psychiatry](#), [the Vidonian Club](#), [the World Federation for Mental Health United States Committee](#), [the Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic](#), [the National Committee for Mental Hygiene](#), [the Channing Sanitarium](#), [the van Ameringen Foundation](#), and [the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law](#).

New Acquisitions

Among our most recent acquisitions, the library recently obtained a first edition, second issue of Jacques Lacan's 1932 dissertation *De la psychose paranoïaque dans ses rapports avec la personnalité*. This work on paranoid schizophrenia documents the case of "Aimée," aka Marguerite Anzieu (1892-1981), at Sainte-Anne hospital and is written in the form of a novel in the style of Flaubert.



Stigma Exhibit

We are also pleased to announce the release of a new online exhibit on stigma: <https://oskardiethelm.omeka.net/exhibits/show/stigma/goffman-stigma>. The exhibit focuses on the works of Erving Goffman and features items from the collection that highlight the blend of fascination, horror, and voyeurism with which onlookers have regarded mental illness over the centuries. The library's 1492 copy of *Malleus Maleficarum*, for instance, describes how to identify witches based on "witches' marks" similar to stigmata. Not long

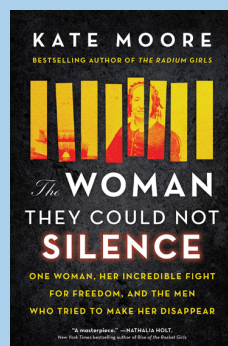


after, in the late 1500s, England's Bethlehem Royal Hospital ("Bedlam") became linked with spectacle, as visitors came to witness the uproar, confusion, and occasionally pity associated with florid mental illness. Asylum tourism was not confined to this corner of history. The display now on view includes advertisements from 19th century New York inviting sightseers to visit and behold the state's asylums and their inhabitants. This exhibit was made possible through the wonderful curation and assistance of Jaina Shaw, who completed her Advanced Certification in Archives and Records Management at the Palmer School at Long Island University in December of 2020.



Researched at the ODL

Author Kate Moore has released a new book based on research completed in the library. Moore is well known as the author of the bestselling work, *The Radium Girls*. Her latest book is entitled *The Woman They Could Not Silence: One Woman, Her Incredible Fight for Freedom, and the Men Who Tried to Make Her Disappear*. The research that informs it draws on the [Barbara Sapinsley papers](#) and the library's collection of [asylum reports](#). It details Elizabeth Packard's successful efforts to eradicate laws that allowed husbands to lock their wives up without trial after Packard's own experience of being in an asylum because of religious disagreements with her husband.



Sponsor a Book

To continue expanding the world-renowned collection of rare books, the Institute has initiated a sponsor-a-book program. If you are interested in sponsoring a rare book for the library, please contact the Institute for more information.

Donations

The library has received many generous donations of books over the past year. We extend thanks to Dr. Kevin Kelly, Dr. Amy Green Clemente and Dr. Jack Clemente, Matt Rosenberger and his father John W. Rosenberger, Janice Quinter, and Megan Wolff. In addition to their gifts, we received hundreds of books from the estate of Anna Antonovsky, our faculty colleague who passed away early in 2020 after decades of involvement with the Institute of Psychiatry. We are glad to have them on our shelves, though we keenly miss her in our midst.

Throughout the pandemic, the library has promoted its materials through the department's social media pages and participated in the monthly National Archives #ArchivesHashtagParty. Tune in weekly to WCMPsychiatry on Twitter and Instagram to see highlights and new additions to the collections and interact with the library items virtually.

Nicole Topich

Nicole Topich, MLIS

Q. How did the Oskar Diethelm Library become the library of record for American psychiatry?

A. Book by book, with the help and support of innumerable friends.

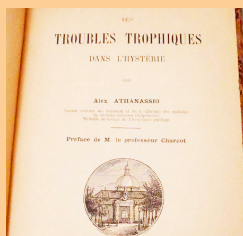
Oskar Diethelm travelled to Europe nearly every summer of his career to scour used book markets for publications on the history of psychiatry. The wooden crates he sent home formed the nucleus of a library that is now one of the greatest such collections in the world, and it is still growing.

Today, instead of roaming Vienna we pore through the catalogues and websites of antiquarian book sellers, casting bids for the rare and valuable items that make the collection truly unique. Our new acquisitions are often the only copies in the United States. Some are the only copies anywhere.

We invite you to join in these acts of preservation. By sponsoring the acquisition of a rare book, you can participate directly in the protection and availability of critical works for scholars. Your name will be recognized in our collection listing as the donor who enabled the purchase of the book, and your actions will contribute to the vitality of the Oskar Diethelm Library.

To generously sponsor these or other items, please contact Special Collections Librarian Nicole Topich at nrt4001@med.cornell.edu, or (212) 746-3728.

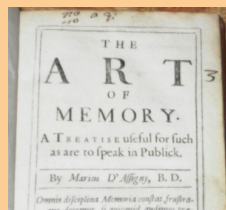
Des troubles tropiques dans l'hystérie, 1890.
Alex Athanassio



236 pp. First edition of a theses presented to Jean-Martin Charcot, who described it as the "best monograph, if not the only one, which we currently have on all trophic disorders of hysteria."

\$260

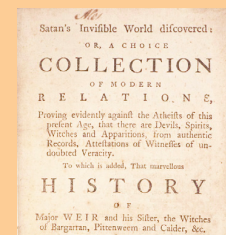
The Art of Memory: a Treatise Useful for Such as are to Speak in Publick, 1697.
Marius D'affigny



126 pp. First Edition. Describes a "memory palace" mnemonic method that was assimilated by Francis Bacon and René Descartes into the curriculum of Logic, where it survives to this day.

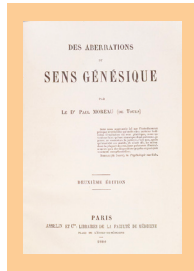
\$575

Satan's Invisible World Discovered, 1769.
George Sinclair



294 pp. Compilation of Scottish reports of witchcraft, demonic appearances, and other such devilish subjects, intended to refute atheism. Five other known copies exist.

\$1052

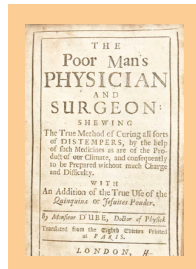


Des aberrations du sens génésique, 1880.

By Paul Moreau de Tours

Untrimmed original paperback, in French. Moreau was a French physician who devoted his career to psychopathology, criminology and, more generally, to "deviant" behavior. He is best known for his work on the pathology of the sexual instinct, and this volume was one of the first studies to attempt a general approach to the subject of sexual deviance. A work resonant with that of Kraft Ebbings, it addresses "aberrations" such as masturbation, nymphomania, erotomania, bestiality, and necrophilia.

\$160

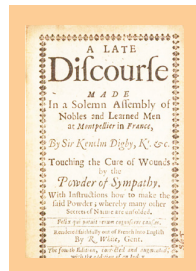


The Poor Man's Physician and Surgeon, 1704.

By Paul D'Ube. First (sole) edition in English. Original French 1670.

This work served as a guide and moral treatise for physicians treating the poor during the reign of Louis XIV, when the condition of French peasants deteriorated dramatically. Calling on his own experience, D'Ube emphasized the moral duty to care for the poor on equal footing with the rich. He carefully described the conditions in which the poor lived and explained how these weakened their health. The book is part of the first genre of writings about medicine for the poor. It met an international need and went through several editions.

\$525

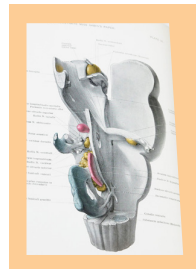


A late discourse made in a solemn assembly of nobles and learned men at Montpellier in France; touching the cure of wounds by the powder of sympathy with instructions how to make the said powder : whereby many other secrets of nature are unfolded, 1660.

By Sir Kenelm Digby. Translated from the French by R White.

Powder of sympathy was a form of sympathetic medicine, current in the 17th century in Europe, whereby a remedy was applied to the weapon that had caused a wound with the aim of healing the injury it had made. Digby claimed to have gotten the secret remedy from a Carmelite monk in Florence.

\$600

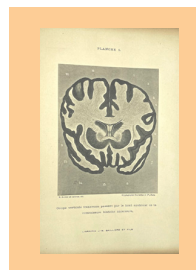


A Model of the Medulla Oblongata, Pons, and Midbrain of a New-Born Babe, 1900.

By Florence Sabin

This is an uncommon offprint of physician and anatomist Florence Sabin's first major work, undertaken when she was an undergraduate and published the following year as the classic textbook, *An Atlas of the Medulla and Midbrain*. Sabin became Johns Hopkins University's first female faculty member in 1902 and progressed through the ranks, receiving an appointment as professor of histology in 1917 — the first full professorship awarded to a woman at the university. Only four other copies of this offprint are known to exist.

\$911

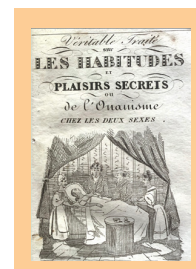


L'enchéphale, 1886.

By Émile Alexandre Gavoy

Uncommon first edition of notable work of neuro-anatomy, with 59 striking life-sized plates drawn from nature by the author and printed using a method of etching called glyptography. Gavoy (1836 - 1896), received his medical doctorate in Strasbourg and made a career as a military doctor, publishing a number of works relating to military medicine in his lifetime. It is his neuro-anatomical works, however, for which he is perhaps best remembered. The present work includes a highly complimentary prefatory letter from the noted French neurologist Professor Alfred Vulpian.

\$925



Véritable traité sur les habitudes et plaisirs secrets, ou de l'onanisme chez les deux sexes, 1831.

By Samuel-Auguste Tissot

A new and updated edition of Tissot's famous treatise on the dangers of masturbation, originally printed in 1760 under the title *L'Onanisme*. The book points out the ill effects of the act of self pleasure on both sexes. On publication, the treatise was presented as a scholarly, scientific work. The authority with which it was subsequently treated — Tissot's arguments were echoed by luminaries such as Kant and Voltaire — arguably turned the perception of masturbation in Western medicine over the next two centuries into that of a debilitating illness.

\$1200

Richardson Seminar on the History of Psychiatry

Seminar Coordinator's Report



During the first summer of Covid, my brother observed that the pandemic was functioning as a time machine for digital technology, thrusting all of us forward about ten years. This was apt, and I've used the analogy a lot. A year on, however, I can see where it needs some tweaking. A time machine usually transports one or two travelers at a time, and part of the narrative involves the work of integrating with a population that is in an entirely different mindset. In this case, an entire population jumped forward all at once. We were disoriented, but in company, a juxtaposition that was doubly strange considering that the overarching characteristic of the epidemic was social isolation. Solitude became a group process. Weird.

Paradox, however, is something that the Richardson Seminar has always handled well. And why not? The group is a collection of clinicians and scholars who routinely distill insight from ambiguity. And there is plenty on offer, given that our dual fields are history and the psyche; all told, incongruous complexity is pretty much our thing. As the Richardson Coordinator, I am gratified that we have been able to continue our meetings this year. I'm perhaps even more intrigued by how well we've fared as a group. I would not have imagined the satisfaction or solidarity of seeing the same core of individuals log in twice a month. Nor would I have foreseen the smooth and felicitous integration of so many new participants from around the world. I have never met these people in person and probably never will, but their regular presence, knowledgeable company, and lively exchanges have drawn them close. Intellectually, there is a type of intimacy at work that I had not previously considered.

And so we set to work.

The semester opened with an examination of the very contradiction most at the center of our online world: the manner in which digital technology created to enhance communication is changing and blurring the discourse it was meant to foster. Philosopher Victor Krebs and psychoanalyst Richard Frankel came together to discuss the contents of their forthcoming book, *Human Virtuality and Digital Life: Philosophical and Psychoanalytic Investigations* (Routledge), and to reflect on the pandemic and the virtual presence that we have all been experiencing. Observing the "vertiginous contingency of the digitized world," Krebs noted that digital technology is changing "our very understanding of knowledge and ignorance, of subjectivity and objectivity. It is reforging our needs and our interests, affecting all areas of human experience. Our philosophy morals are subverted by the multiple new forms of digital communication reverberating in our lives today." Drawing on Winnicott, Frankel elaborated a psychoanalytic perspective. The electronic devices that we use for work and social media reflect back and thus enhance the self, somewhat akin to the mirroring provided by parents. Unlike such human mirrors, however, our phones never stop giving. They aggregate and hyperrealize the need for recognition. "Today we demand to be mirrored with a ferocity second to nothing else in our lives, including how we love." If true, the implications demand unpacking.

University of California, San Diego, professor Andrew Scull followed with "Some Remarks on Psychiatry and its Discontents," a lecture drawn from his recent book, a collection of essays under the same title. While the book is wide-ranging, Scull confined his remarks to the one subject addressed consistently throughout: the dubious and troubled situation in which contemporary psychiatry finds itself. For purposes of time, he focused on the DSM, a volume that so often serves as a flashpoint for professional debate. For some, noted Scull, the DSM is little better than an "anti-intellectual collection of categories jammed between two covers." For others it is more substantive, but the troubled diagnostic system that it represents (and conveys) often totalizes the debate. In his talk, Scull begged a broader question: Are the discontents of psychiatry effectively diagnostic, or do the troubles that beset the field have broader roots? The answer is almost certainly the latter, and was amply explored in both his presentation and his recent book.



As if to underscore the embattled standing of the psychiatric field, our next speaker further addressed the discipline's debates. Jennifer Lambe opened her lecture, "Mind Wars: Psychiatry and its Critics, 1960-1994," with the observation that a history of psychiatric critique is also necessarily a critical history of our psychiatric present. Her current book project aims to elaborate this point, and her discussion to the Richardson Seminar did so as well. Lambe's project is a transnational account of psychiatric critique and dehospitalization from the 1960s to the early 1990s. The work frames circulation and renegotiation of power as an aim of psychiatric critique, and traces the ways in which the movement of people and ideas across borders reflect relations of power. Because much of her research has focused

on the history of mental illness and mental healing in Cuba, she utilized the Cuban experience as a vivid and effective lens.



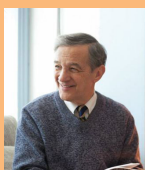
After Thanksgiving, we were joined by Andreas Killen, professor of history at City College and CUNY Grad Center, who is currently completing a book on the cultural history of the brain and brain science in the middle of the 20th century. His lecture examined the way in which new understandings and new perceptions of the brain entered political and cultural life during that period, particularly in the context of the Cold War and counterculture. The 1950s, noted Killen, marked the beginning of an era in which the brain became an "explorable" organ. New research on areas like epilepsy, memory, learning, and perception generated new

ideas, and penetrated the writing of figures like Hannah Arendt and William S. Burroughs. In his presentation as in his forthcoming book, Killen touched on the ways in which these ideas were reflected in the work of neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield, Canadian psychologist Donald Hebb, New York City psychoanalyst Lawrence Kubie, and controversial neuroscientist John Lilly.

Our next speaker, Jonathan Sadowsky of Case Western Reserve, intrigued us with an elegant and thought-provoking talk on "Narrative Arcs in the History of Psychiatry: the Case of Depression." Drawing on material from his most recent book, *The Empire of Depression: A New History*, Sadowsky framed a critique of the negativity with which much of psychiatric history is written. A significant number of narratives associated with psychiatry linger on the adverse effects of psychiatric treatments, without exploring their therapeutic gains. Such an approach, pointed out Sadowsky, would be considered odd in other books on medicine, for instance a history of cancer, but it is commonplace for psychiatry. Terming this the "lacrimose style" of psychiatric history, he noted that it amounts to a type of insidious antipsychiatry. Narrative choices matter in historical writing just as they do in other applications of prose, a point made by Hayden White, who sensitized historians to the importance of narrative and tropes. In this instance, reasoned Sadowsky, the belittlement of the psychiatric field is embedded in the narrative structure with which the discipline is often described: Its risks are better assessed than its benefits, generating an asymmetrical history that is – not by accident – also very dark.



In January, we opened the spring semester with a lecture by Christopher Chamberlain, a Fellow at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin (ICI Berlin), who specializes in literary and critical theory, psychoanalysis, and the history of science. In "The Antiracist Clinic," Chamberlain theorized about the history of the clinical discourses on racism in the United States, from abolitionist print culture in the nineteenth-century to the antiracist psychoanalysis of the Civil Rights Era. Placing emphasis on the writings of Jacques Lacan and Frantz Fanon, he set about reevaluating the interpretive and therapeutic protocols by which psychoanalysis engaged with race in an earlier period.



In February, Franklin and Marshall professor Joel Eigen joined us from his home in Lancaster, PA, for a discussion on the ways in which the concept of criminal responsibility is framed by forensic psychiatrists. The cognitive capacity to understand the nature and consequences of behavior, "mens rea," is an essential element of culpability. But the intellectual cognition "is a devilishly difficult concept to define." How do we go about determining what it was an individual intended to do? What kind of psychological construct does the jury employ to infer a defendant's intent? The paradigm once covered by common law, which

rested on "malicious intent," with resolve to do evil, has been greatly complicated by newer forms of evidence such as neuroscience and behavioral genetics. What is the place, mused Eigen, for irregularities in brain structure or genotypical evidence within the concept of intent? Does abnormal brain activity undermine the law's notion of crime as a chosen act? The questions lead to questions, and a fascinating talk.

Later in the month, IoP faculty member Louis Sass presented "Mental Disorder, Magic, and the Soul: Ways of Knowing among Traditional Healers in Mexico," a paper he authored along with Edgar Álvarez-Herrera of Uruapan, Michoacán. Taking for their subject the Purépecha, the Indigenous people of Michoacán, the investigators focused on three of the main concepts of mental disorder prevalent within the group: Locura (madness), Nervios (nerves), and Susto (fright). These emotional models are by no means unique to the Purépecha and indeed are well known throughout Latin America, with local variations. They have not, however, been studied together in a systematic manner. Sass and Álvarez-Herrera sought to review the disorders as a group, and to consider the conceptual structure and perceptual imagery associated with them. Sass' lecture presented the pair's observations, and some reflections on the underlying experience of meaning that seemed to characterize the group's local curandismo.



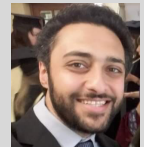
The Esman Lecture took place in March in the form of a discussion between art historian Ginette Jubinville from the University of Montreal and Todd Porterfield, from NYU Gallatin. Jubinville wrote her thesis on *Art, Architecture, and the Early French Psychiatry Movement*, a subject of great interest and visual appeal to many members of our group. Her book, *L'art et l'architecture au temps des premiers aliénistes français*, examines the works of art commissioned by the first French psychiatrists at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Porterfield, a lively and informed interlocutor, served as one of Jubinville's mentors during the creation of the book, and his questions provided further depth and texture to the discussion.





Emily Baum, a professor of history at the University of California, Irvine, joined us later in the month to discuss "The Psychiatric Hospital in Modern Chinese History." As a graduate student, Baum had noticed a dearth of literature on the history of mental health care in twentieth century China. What writings existed seemed to come solely from the hands of missionaries and other Western onlookers, who described crude arrangements of confinement and restraint. Baum wondered what the system of care might have looked like through local eyes, and set about investigating case records. What she found was a network of asylums where care was not carceral, as portrayed by Western accounts, but palliative and supportive. Chinese institutions were basic, but offered the possibility of care, food, and warmth to patients and families who had reached a point of crisis. Evidence also indicated that photographs of patients in chains and cages had been staged, probably because Western audiences had a vested political and ideological interest in demonstrating Chinese backwardness. Their portrayals were part of a broader historical context, noted Baum, in which outsiders sought to justify their presence in China by highlighting the supposed barbarism of the Chinese. The "real" story was less exonerating for Westerners, and more felicitous for patients in China.

Baher Ibrahim, who presented to the Richardson Seminar in early April, conducted doctoral work examining the history of psychiatry and mental health interventions in refugee camps. In March of 2020 when he visited the Oskar Diethelm Library to pursue this research, he obtained the strange distinction of being the last scholar to visit the reading room before the pandemic shuttered operations. Ibrahim's work, thankfully, did not cease with the imposition of Covid, and he has since obtained his Ph.D. in the history of medicine from Glasgow University. His thesis probes the ways in which the ideas, theories, and clinical orientation of psychiatry have been articulated in refugee camps. It was work, he explained to the Seminar, that he explored with two broad questions. First, when did psychiatry begin to take an interest in refugees as a specific population with unique experiences and needs? And second, what have psychiatrists historically considered to be the deleterious health effects of being a refugee? The first could be answered with World War II, when the plight of displaced persons drew worldwide attention. The second, he found, could be resolved into three main themes: uprooting (physical dislocation from one's homeland), trauma, and confinement to camps. On this basis, a growing subspecialty of psychiatry continues to attend to the needs of refugees, whose presence and hardships continue in places of conflict in the 21st century.



The spring continued with a presentation by Carolyn Laubender, who teaches at the University of Essex, England. Laubender based her talk on research pertaining to her current book project, *Psychoanalysis and the Politics of the Clinic*, a monograph that examines the ways in which the clinic is an active site of engagement with geopolitical issues, not the apolitical site it is often supposed to be. To explore and illustrate her view, Laubender focused her presentation on a case study conducted by Melanie Klein in 1941 of "Richard," a 10 year old boy in Scotland, whose 6-day-a-week analysis ran to 90 sessions. In the course of this time, Richard generated approximately 74 drawings, mostly scenes of attack, invasion, war, and empire. Klein took copious notes, and the published study was one of the longest single case histories ever recorded. Yet neither



Klein nor her adherents ever engaged "with the geopolitical contours of these images," noted Laubender, "which bring the midcentury politics of colonialist, imperial expansion into the clinical relation." Where Klein saw the psyche of a paranoid schizophrenic child, Laubender perceived an added layer of political awareness. "The abstract drawings of empire produced by a child patient revealed the centrality of politics within the clinical sphere," she noted. The psychoanalytic clinic is therefore neither politically isolated nor normalizing. Whatever its capacities, it is anything but apolitical.

On May 19, Fernando Vidal joined us for the year's greatest honor, the Carlson Lecture. Professor Vidal is on the faculty of the ICREA, the Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies in Taragona, Spain. He is a popular speaker, and a prolific scholar, having published more than 52 articles in the past decade alone and three books, *Piaget Before Piaget* (Harvard 1994), *The Sciences of the Soul: Early Modern Origins of Psychology* (Chicago, 2011), and *Being Brains: Making the Cerebral Subject* (Fordham, 2017). The Carlson Lecture, "How We Became our Brains," drew on this latest work, and opened with the observation that "neurocentrism" has become naturalized. "Thanks to scientific progress," noted Vidal, "the brain has come to replace the soul as the seat of personhood. Neuroscientists and others tend to present the conviction that we are our brains as a necessary corollary of brain research, as a result of scientific progress." Vidal's project is to deepen our understanding of this shift by exploring how it came about. What does it mean, he asks, to "be" our brains, and to ask how we "became" our brains, not in a biological or evolutionary way but in an historical, cultural, and political way. In the afternoon lecture to the Richardson Seminar, Vidal continued his exploration of such representations, this time utilizing material from his current project, *Performing Brains on Screen*, which examines how fiction films enact the belief that human beings are essentially their brains. When movies perform a brain, he noted, they illustrate a prominent cultural belief: where goes a brain, there goes a person. "Yet they always wind up questioning their own neurocentric assumption. This is significant because what makes movies meaningful is their ambivalence; their capacity to perform contradictory positions." Movies, he observed, don't have to reach conclusions or clearly defend a position. They are therefore excellent vehicles for exploring the complexity and ambiguity of the human soul, and how it could possibly be housed within human anatomy. In the movies, it is not only actors who are icons, but also brains.

Megan J. Wolff, Ph.D., MPH

Richardson Seminar Schedule

Fall 2020

September 9	Victor J. Krebs, Ph.D. , Pontifical Catholic University of Peru & Richard Frankel, Ph.D. , Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis "Human Virtuality and Digital Life"
October 21	Andrew Scull, Ph.D. , University of California, San Diego "Some Remarks on Psychiatry and its Discontents"
November 4	Jennifer Lambe, Ph.D. , Brown University "Mind Wars: Psychiatry and its Critics, 1960-1994"
December 2	Andreas Killen, Ph.D. , City University of New York "Experiments in Consciousness: Brain Science in the 1950s"
December 16	Jonathan Sadowsky, Ph.D. , Case Western Reserve University "Narrative Arcs in the History of Psychiatry: the Case of Depression"

Spring 2021

Christopher Chamberlin, Ph.D. , Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin "The Antiracist Clinic"	January 20
Joel P. Eigen, Ph.D. , Franklin & Marshall College "Searching for the Elusive Link: Behavioral Genetics, Neuroscience, and Criminal Responsibility"	February 3
Louis Sass, Ph.D. , Rutgers University "Mental Disorder, Magic, and the Soul: Ways of Knowing among Traditional Healers in Mexico"	February 17
Ginette Jubinville, Ph.D. , University of Montreal in conversation with Todd Porterfield, Ph.D. , New York University, Gallatin <i>Esman Lecture</i> "Art, Architecture, and the Early French Psychiatry Movement (1801-1863)"	March 3
Emily Baum, Ph.D. , University of California, Irvine "The Psychiatric Hospital in Modern Chinese History"	March 17
Baher Ibrahim, M.D. , Doctoral Candidate, University of Glasgow "Uprooting, Trauma, and Confinement: Psychiatry in Refugee Camps, 1945-1993"	April 7
Carolyn Laubender, Ph.D. , University of Essex "Empires of Mind: Psychosocial Cartographies of 'The Empire' in a Narrative of a Child Analysis"	April 21
Fernando Vidal, Ph.D. , Rovira i Virgili University, Spain <i>Eric T. Carlson Memorial Lecture: Grand Rounds</i> "How We Became Our Brains"	May 19
Richardson Seminar "Performing Brains on Screen"	
Lisa Baraitser, Ph.D. , Birkbeck, University of London <i>Stevens-Barchas Lecture</i> "Enduring Time"	May 26

Issues in Mental Health Policy

Seminar Coordinator's Report



2020-2021 has been a year of emergencies, and also a year of questions. We saw our healthcare system turned on its head by an emerging infectious disease. We saw our nation's capital engulfed in a riot by Americans caught up in solipsistic anger. Such sights caused us to ponder some of our most foundational questions: how can these things be? What do they mean? What might happen next?

I found it a comfort and a boon to turn to the Issues in Mental Health Policy series for help in parsing some of these questions. In the fall, we asked faculty member Joseph Fins to share his thoughts about the bioethical implications of what had happened to our health system – and to us – during the first wave of Covid 19. Like so many of our staff, Dr. Fins spent March and April of 2020 providing treatment on the hospital's front lines, but in addition to being a physician he is also a seasoned bioethicist. In his lecture, "Bioethics After Covid-19 and Why History Matters," he spoke poignantly about the experience. Dr. Fins noted that the rumors of scarcity in New York City hospitals were true. Simply put, there were more patients to be resuscitated than there were available personnel, much less equipment. The lack was twofold, however, for inasmuch as providers lacked physical resources, they also lacked legal and ethical guidance. Although New York State had written guidelines for ventilator allocation in 2015, these were not promulgated into regulations that clinicians could use to maximize survival during the deadly first wave of the pandemic. "So what did we do?" asked Fins. They relied on emergency guidelines and protections. And bioethicists like Fins picked up their pens. During the pandemic, Fins wrote 11 versions of a policy for the allocation of ventilators based on what ethicists hoped the state might do. None have been enshrined in law, but the work and the thinking continue.

In the spring, we invited Professor Ira Hyman from Western Washington University to speak to us about disinformation campaigns, and to offer insight on why they are effective. As an applied cognitive psychologist with a focus on attention and memory, Professor Hyman has done a great deal of work on how misinformation is adopted, and why critical thinking is not necessarily a safeguard against it. Much has to do with the goals and methods with which disinformation is deployed. Unlike misinformation, which is usually inadvertent and encountered bit by bit, disinformation is intentional, systematic, and is usually deployed for the sake of political or economic gain. Disinformation campaigns will include a mix of true and false information, often in enormous quantities that become difficult to parse and prompt recipients to reject further material. Although evidence demonstrates that the individuals most likely to absorb and share disinformation are older, conservative, and religious, it is vital to recognize that all people are vulnerable and susceptible, because the way in which we process material is not as logical as we like to believe. Information that is repeated often is likely to be accepted as true, as is material that is illustrated with pictures (nearly any pictures, related or not), or conveyed in a clear font or pleasant voice. Most importantly, our primary filter is social – we accept or reject information based less on its logic or plausibility than by the messenger by whom it is conveyed. If that person is trusted, the information is trusted. Hyman emphasized that there are known and decisive ways to combat disinformation and curb its spread. Compelling news media to avoid false equivalences, changing computer algorithms to deprioritize fear-mongering content, or simply deplatforming known "super spreaders" of disinformation are effective techniques. Sooner or later, however, credulity is social. Facts may be more or less carefully vetted, but no network is free of biases.

Megan J. Wolff, Ph.D., MPH

Sept 16, 2020 **Joseph J. Fins, M.D., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P., Weill Cornell Medicine**
"Bioethics after COVID-19 & Why History Matters"

March 31, 2021 **Ira Hyman, Ph.D., Western Washington University**
"The Danger of Disinformation Campaigns: How Misinformation is Adopted and Why Critical Thinking Won't Save Us"

Psychiatry and the Arts

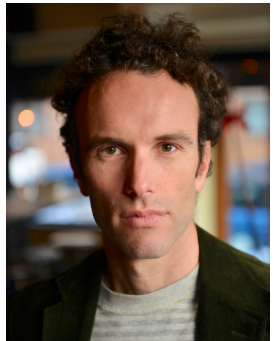
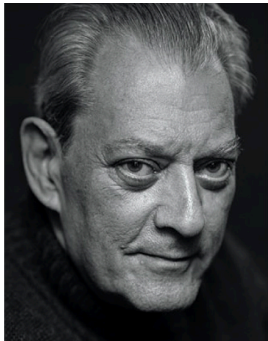
Seminar Coordinator's Report



To inaugurate our new series of discussions on the intersection of Psychiatry and the Arts, I focused on that mysterious entity, the imagination. Seemingly inscrutable to philosophers, psychologists, and others in the mind sciences, it is nonetheless an everyday capacity upon which so much relies. To kick things off, I was delighted to explore the nature of the imagination with two masterful novelists, Siri Hustvedt and Paul Auster, both of whom bring to life worlds that exist nowhere other than in their minds. Next, I interviewed the eminent scholar, Sonu Shamdasani, on Carl Jung's creative process and his thoughts on visionaries. The brilliant poet Sharon Olds spoke to me about the way words and images come together for her and her lucky readers. Finally, I spoke to the fascinating novelist and journalist Elliot Ackerman, a decorated veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, whose writing wrestles with the effects of violence and trauma on the imagination. While in the end, the source of the imagination remained elusive, some its tributaries were made more lucid by the insights of these distinguished scholars and artists.



George J. Makari, M.D.



Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D., and Paul Auster in conversation with **George J. Makari, M.D.**
"On the Nature of the Imagination"

October 6

Sonu Shamdasani, Ph.D., in conversation with **George J. Makari, M.D.**
"On the Visionary Imagination: A Discussion of C.G. Jung's *The Black Books*"

November 18

Sharon Olds, Ph.D. in conversation with **George J. Makari, M.D.**
"Poetry and the Imagination"

February 10

Elliot Ackerman in conversation with **George J. Makari, M.D.**
"Violence and the Imagination"

May 5

Working Group on Psychoanalysis & the Humanities



As the year began, it was hard to imagine that the liveliness and spontaneity of our discussions could be preserved over Zoom. But in fact, in spite of meeting remotely, that liveliness and spontaneity were very much present.

The presentations reflected the wide range of members' interests. Dr. Ellie Gelman led a discussion of two short stories by Elizabeth Strout in relation to her re-consideration of D.W. Willcott's notion of "the ordinary good enough mother." Dr. Susan Scheftel discussed childhood, as well, also with reference to Winnicott, in her illustrated presentation about the belief in Irish fairies, with readings from W.B. Yeats. Prof. Anne Hoffman gave a presentation with her Fordham colleague, Jason Morris, professor of biology, about the interdisciplinary seminar they teach entitled "Diverse Biology/Shared Humanity." The syllabus they developed for the unit on race included readings from W.E.B. DuBois, James Baldwin, and Ta-Nehisi Coates, and about the history of racism in science, and a selection of songs. The Rev. Curt Hart picked up some of these themes in his presentation "Psychiatry in Harlem: The Post War Period," with readings about Margaret Morgan Lawrence, the first African American woman psychoanalyst. In addition to readings, he drew on his experience in the development of a community mental health clinic at a church in Harlem in the years 1946-1958.

Two other presentations attest to the wide ranging-ness of the group's interests. Dr. Nirav Soni assigned readings from William James' *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, and reflected on incorporating into psychoanalysis ideas that have more traditionally been the province of religion. And on an altogether different note, Prof. Elisabeth Gitter gave a presentation on the subject of seduction, whose text was a memoir by the artist Celia Paul, *Self-Portrait*. In an article that appeared in the *Massachusetts Historical Review*, Prof. Gitter graciously acknowledged an earlier presentation to the Working Group.

Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.

Working Group on the Mind Sciences



Our meetings this past academic year were led by Drs. Nirav Soni and Orna Ophir. In October 2020, Dr. Soni led a discussion of the work of the great French psychoanalyst Jean Laplanche. At Dr. Soni's behest, we read Laplanche's "Sexuality and Attachment in Metapsychology," a paper recently re-published in the collection of his essays entitled *Freud and the Sexual*. Dr. Soni focused our discussion on the relevance of Laplanche's work today as well as the question of what constitutes progress and development in psychoanalytic theory and practice.

Our April 2021 meeting, led by Dr. Ophir, provided us the opportunity to read and discuss two chapters from her forthcoming book, *Schizophrenia: An Unfinished History*. With a combination of graceful, lively prose and superb scholarship, Dr. Ophir offers a thoughtful and much-needed account of the history and development of psychiatric and psychoanalytic construals of schizophrenia, as well as her reflections on its current status in psychiatry.

Nathan Kravis, M.D.

Working Group on Psychiatry, Psychology, & Society



The Fall semester's first meeting was led by Leonard Groopman, who presented us with the "Sources for the Book of Ruth." These readings inspired a fascinating discussion about the nature of memory, repression, and the relationship with those who become foreigners in this process. Drawing on a chapter from the *Book of Ruth* and expanding on a rich archive of sources, ranging from Eric Auerbach's *Mimesis*, via Freud's *Moses and Monotheism*, to Yosef Yerushalmi's *Freud's Moses*, Lenny reminded us that history is essentially a story of remembering and forgetting. Referencing Freud's theory of the uncanny—more literally, the unhomely—Lenny concluded his presentation with a reading of John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale" and the image of the "sad heart of Ruth," longing for a home, yet standing in tears "amid the alien corn."

The question of the Other was also raised by Nathan Kravis, who presented his fascinating paper "On Charisma." Conceived as part of a larger project tentatively entitled *The Homogenization of Experience: Escapes and Returns*, Nate's paper addressed the manifestation in the clinical context of what Søren Kierkegaard calls "levelling." Interpreting the latter mechanism as a defense against envy, Nate renamed it "the homogenization of experience." Nate's essay has in the meantime been published in the October 2021 issue of the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.

Jess Diller Kovler and the undersigned led our second meeting. Jess asked us to read a working copy of an article she was writing telling the story of the encephalitis lethargica outbreak that occurred between 1915 and 1926 and which left patients immobile, until one summer during the late '60s, they "awakened" only to later deteriorate again. Jess introduced us to the idea of "outbreak narratives" and in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic asked us to think about the utility of hearing stories regarding epidemics and the "formula" they follow in making sense of these crises.

Orna Ophir presented a chapter from her new book, *Schizophrenia: An Unfinished History*, forthcoming in May 2022 from Polity Press. The book is meant for the general reader and part of a new series about the history of mental illnesses. The chapter presented, "The Ends of Schizophrenia," with its double sense of end, meaning both the purpose of a diagnosis and its possible abrupt termination or slow demise, introduced the shift in the classification system that contemporary psychiatry is undergoing, from carving out categories of mental illnesses, on the one hand, to delineating spectra of these same disorders, on the other. This transition from a diagnosis based on descriptive symptoms (as listed in the DSM) to a dimensional classification based on biological or psychological scales (that can be found in the RDoC and HiTOP) marks the turn toward an eventual end of the very diagnosis of schizophrenia as we know it, while bringing into sharper focus what its original, therapeutic intent once was.

During the last meeting of the year, Camille Robics pre-circulated the introduction and the conclusion of her widely reviewed and highly acclaimed book, *Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy, and Radical Psychiatry in Postwar France* (University of Chicago Press, 2021). Camille found that while thousands of patients died in French psychiatric hospitals during the collaborationist Vichy regime due to "soft extermination" (through cold, starvation or lack of care), one hospital in Saint-Alban resisted the killing. In their attempts to save their patients, several psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, and scholars created a new movement under the name of "institutional psychotherapy," which would have a profound influence on postwar French thought. Camille engaged the clinicians in the group and asked for their input regarding the practical applications of "institutional psychotherapy's" novel insights.

The last project that the working group discussed this academic year was Isaac Jean-François' work-in-progress, which he had tentatively titled "'Self-slaughter': Black Queer Desire, Phantasmatic Epidermalization, and Enclosure." Isaac, a doctoral student in the joint degree program with African-American Studies and American Studies at Yale University, was interested in establishing a dialogue between Black Studies scholars and psychoanalytic theorists. He was especially concerned with the need to historicize the construction of "the skin" as a porous enclosure. Isaac's original use of the writings of the American-born British psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Donald Meltzer and notably the latter's notion of "the claustrum" enabled him to theorize the black author Gary Fisher's (1996) journal entries, thus engaging the working group in thinking through questions of sexual desire and power.

Orna Ophir, Ph.D.

Seminar in Narrative Psychiatry



The narrative medicine seminar was conducted by Zoom this year, not with perfect satisfaction but surprisingly lively despite the talking head atmosphere. In light of the pandemic's massive suffering and death toll, the texts and prompts were chosen to examine the subjectivity of illness experience. On a couple of occasions, we wrote in the voice of a particular patient, an exercise that is always interesting. We also explored the necessarily intersubjective qualities of illness, especially the relation between patient and physician, and how context influences sickness of all kinds, its effects on the immune, endocrine, and nervous systems in particular. We began with a delirium passage from Katherine Ann Porter's *Pale Horse/Pale Rider*, written from her own near-death experience during the 1918 flu pandemic. We then read passages from Levin's experience

of the death of his brother, Nicholas, from tuberculosis, as well as Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, followed by excerpts from Audre Lorde's blistering and moving commentaries on medicine in *The Cancer Journals*, Frank Huyler's exacting, brilliantly written tales from his life as an emergency medicine doctor in *White Hot Light: Twenty-five Years in Emergency Medicine*, William Reich's cogent meditations on personality and politics taken from *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*, passages from Daniel Schreber's 1903 memoir about his isolation and complex cosmology, one of the creature's eloquent speeches from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* on ostracism, and finally the famous passage from John Donne's *Meditation 17*, "No man is an island..." All the texts produced remarkable writing and memorable discussions in the group.

Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D.

Benjamin Rush Scholars Program



In the Rush fellowship this year, we continued our study of group behavior and the history of the theory of group mentalities as well as briefly touching on the history of race and racism. A highlight was the opportunity to have a wide ranging conversation with Dr. Nathan Kravis, where we discussed his recent paper on Charisma. Dr. Goldblum has been focusing her efforts on studying cults as an example of group behavior, especially the ways in which charismatic leaders influence and shape the minds of their followers.

Nirav Soni, Ph.D.



Miriam Goldblum, M.D., is a senior resident in Psychiatry at Weill Cornell. She obtained her medical degree from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where she received a Geffen scholarship—a merit-based full tuition and living expenses paid scholarship throughout her time in medical school. She received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College, Columbia University, where she graduated magna cum laude in Political Science. She is also a former opera singer and has performed with the Los Angeles Opera and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. In her time as a

Rush fellow, she has worked with Dr. Nirav Soni studying dynamism and group psychology in an effort to better explore the psychology of cults. In addition, she is currently a first year candidate at the Columbia Psychoanalytic Center and is applying for a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.



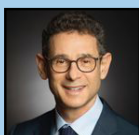
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Nathan Kravis, M.D. Associate Director
Nicole Topich, M.L.I.S. Special Collections Librarian
Megan J. Wolff, Ph.D., M.P.H. Administrator & Policy Researcher

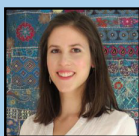
Stewart Adelson, M.D.
Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau, Ph.D.
Michael Beldoch, Ph.D.
Samantha Boardman, M.D.
Daria Colombo, M.D.
Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.
Aaron Esman, M.D.
Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Lawrence Friedman, M.D.
Richard Friedman, M.D.
William A. Frosch, M.D.
Robert Goldstein, M.D.
Leonard Groopman, M.D., Ph.D.
Curtis Hart, M.Div.
Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D. (CUNY Grad Center)
Anne Golomb Hoffman, Ph.D. (Fordham University)
Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D.
Robert Michels, M.D.
Doris B. Nagel, M.D.
Orna Ophir, Ph.D. (New York University)
Camille Robcis, Ph.D. (Columbia University)
Louis Sass, Ph.D. (Rutgers University)
Theodore Shapiro, M.D.
Nirav Soni, Ph.D.
Paul E. Stepansky, Ph.D.
Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., MPH
Peter Wilson, M.D.

All have appointments at Weill Cornell. If a member's primary academic position is elsewhere, it is given in parentheses.

Research Faculty News



Stewart Adelson, M.D., received the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's Norbert and Charlotte Rieger Service Program Award for Excellence this year. It was granted in recognition of the Yale Law and Public Health Schools Global Health Justice Partnership's Youth Equity Science/YES Project, of which Dr. Adelson is founding Director. In 2020, the YES Project hosted its first Health Justice Elective Fellow of the NYPH Cornell/Columbia Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program. In January 2020, Dr. Adelson's paper, "LGBT Youth, Mental Health, and Spiritual Care: Psychiatric Collaboration with Health Care Chaplains" – a publication based on a conference of the Vagelos Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons Pediatric Ethics Committee – was selected as "Editors' Best" article of the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. He was also elected to membership in the American College of Psychiatrists in 2020.



Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau, Ph.D., is a Visiting Fellow at Weill Cornell Psychiatry. Over the past year she worked on her first monograph, entitled *Scripting the Mind: Technologies of Writing and Selfhood in France, 1857–1930*. The book traces the rise of various models of the mind that emerged in France prior to and concurrently with the Freudian revolution. Specifically, it highlights the role played by 'automatic writing' in the making of modern subjectivity. Bacopoulos-Viau also contributed to a volume on the medical case (*Le Cas médical entre norme et exception*, ed. Paolo Tortonese, Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2020) and taught a graduate seminar at NYU's Institute of French Studies.



Daria Colombo, M.D., is on the faculty of the New York Psychoanalytic Institute, and supervises residents from Payne Whitney and Mount Sinai, as well as psychology externs at New York State Psychiatric Institute. This year she was appointed an Associate Editor of the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.



Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D., is Clinical Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at WCMC. She is the coordinator of the Institute's Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Humanities. At the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, she is the director of the Affiliate Scholars Program.



Joseph J. Fins, M.D., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P., the E. William Davis, Jr., M.D. Professor of Medical Ethics and Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics, continues his collaboration with Dr. Nicholas D. Schiff as they co-direct the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury (C.A.S.B.I.) at Weill Cornell Medicine and Rockefeller University. Dr. Fins has expanded the reach of CASBI through his appointment as a Visiting Professor of Law at Yale Law School and as the Solomon Center Distinguished Scholar in Medicine, Bioethics and the Law. Following upon his book, *Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and the Struggle for Consciousness* (Cambridge University Press), Dr. Fins has pioneered ethical and legal scholarship advancing the civil and disability rights of patients with severe brain injury. During the past year, Dr. Fins led the Division of Medical Ethics in its response to COVID-19. With colleagues, he wrote the first set of articles on clinical ethics consultation during the pandemic. Dr. Fins was elected President-Elect of the International Ethics Society and named to the Advisory Panel of the Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee of the American Academy of Neurology, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Hastings Center. He completed his service on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Standing Committee to Advise the Department of State on Unexplained Health Effects on U.S. Government Employees and their Families at Overseas Embassies, serving as a co-author of the report, "An Assessment of Illness in U.S. Government Employees and Their Families at Overseas Embassies."



Lawrence Friedman, M.D., is on the faculty of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York (formerly, the Institute for Psychoanalytic Education affiliated with the NYU Medical School). He is on the Advisory Board of the Loewald Center, on the Editorial Board of *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, and an Editorial Consultant to *Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane*. He is collecting his previously published papers on philosophy and on theories of the mind, and working on "Loewald Among the Ego Psychologists."



Richard A. Friedman, M.D., is Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and the Director of the Psychopharmacology Clinic at Weill Cornell Medical College. He is an expert in the neurobiology and treatment of mood and anxiety disorders and has done research in depression. He is actively involved in teaching and training psychiatric residents and is director of the biological psychiatry curriculum in the department. Dr. Friedman has a keen interest in mental health policy and the social and cultural implications of current psychiatric practice. He has published on a wide range of topics in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, and *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. He is also a contributing opinion writer at the *New York Times*, where he writes on mental health, addiction, human behavior, and neuroscience. Outside of the office, he is an avid long-distance swimmer and classical pianist.



William Frosch, M.D., serves on the Department's Appointments and Promotions Committee, which he created decades ago in conjunction with Bob Michels, and which he chaired for many years. He remains a member of the Rockefeller Institutional Review Board (after more than two decades, he is its longest-running member).



Curtis Hart, M.Div., continues in his various activities in the Medical Center and the community, which this year have included a number of guest lectures. For the Columbia Rado Advanced Psychoanalytic Study (RAPS) Group on Spirituality, he presented, "Ana-Maria Rizzuto's 'Why Did Freud Reject God?' Revisited." In January, he delivered a talk, "Balm in Gilead: Psychiatry in Harlem in the Post World War II Era" to the Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Humanities at the Institute of Psychiatry. He also made a presentation to the RAPS Group on "Annette Gordon-Reed's 'On Juneteenth': Memoir, History, and a Sense of Place."



Dagmar Herzog, Ph.D., is Distinguished Professor of History and Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, where she teaches courses in European history, with a special focus on Nazism and the Holocaust, and also in the history of psychoanalysis. In June 2021, Herzog delivered the Adorno Lectures in Frankfurt/Main on the topic "Eugenic Phantasms: Disability, Power, Morality." Also in June 2021, *The Routledge Companion to Sexuality and Colonialism*, coedited with Chelsea Schields, was published. Herzog continues to coedit the journal *Psychoanalysis and History*. In Summer 2022, Herzog will teach at Cornell's School of Criticism and Theory.



Anne Golomb Hoffman, Ph.D., is teaching a new course, a senior seminar titled "Incarceration: History, Literature, Film," reflective of her interest in prison education. (When the pandemic hit, she was teaching a combined course, involving Fordham students and incarcerated women at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.) Together with a scientist colleague, Hoffman is running a faculty study group on the work of W.E.B. Du Bois in relation to his contemporaries, part of Fordham's anti-racism initiative. In the spring of 2021, she co-taught Freud's case histories at the NY Psychoanalytic Institute and participated in a panel on Kate Novack's film, *Hysterical Girl*.



Siri Hustvedt, Ph.D., joined six other writers in August of 2020 to found Writers Against Trump (WAT). The group continues under a new name: Writers for Democratic Action. In addition to this work, Hustvedt spent several months revising and editing a collection of essays that will be published by Simon & Schuster in December 2021, *Mothers, Fathers, and Others*. In July, she wrote a short script for a segment of a fiction film, *H24*, directed by Nathalie Masduraud and Valerie Urrea on harassment and violence against women, "Concerto #3," produced by Arte. In the zoom era she has given numerous events and talks. In September she presented to the Hay Festival in

Querétaro, Mexico as well as to the University of Zurich on “The Virus and Viral Metaphors.” In October, she joined with Paul Auster and George Makari to help launch the DeWitt Wallace Institute’s new series on Psychiatry and the Arts. The following month she presented to the Puerto de Ideas Festival in Valparaíso, and joined a conversation in Stockholm with Dr. Valdemar Erling on narrative medicine. Further presentations took place in Barcelona, Madrid, Montevideo, Zagreb, and Zurich. In June, she presented three lectures on the philosophy and science of the imagination for the Youth Symposium at the Center for Contextual Studies in Kassel, Germany.



Nathan Kravis, M.D., is the Associate Director of the Institute and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at WCM. His Grady Award winning book, *On the Couch: A Repressed History of the Analytic Couch* (MIT Press, 2017) has been translated into German, Turkish, and Russian. He gave the 2020-21 Arnold Cooper M.D. Memorial Grand Rounds on “Charisma” and was the recipient of the Cooper Award from the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine.



George J. Makari, M.D., is the Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry: History, Policy, & the Arts, and Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College, as well as a Guest Investigator at Rockefeller University and the Columbia Psychoanalytic Center. This past year, he wrote an essay on COVID and his father, “At Home in the Unseen World” for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and inaugurated the “Psychiatry and the Arts” interview series, which was awarded the Columbia Psychoanalytic Public Communications Award. He was a lead advisor to the PBS series, *Mysteries of Mental Illness*. He worked with translators who produced, among others, the Japanese edition of his first book, *Revolution in Mind* and the Spanish edition of *Soul Machine*. At Weill Cornell, Dr. Makari delivers lectures on the history of psychiatry to medical residents, and serves as co-instructor to the course on “Models of the Mind.” In addition to teaching, research, and writing, he maintains an active psychiatric practice. He completed his book, *Of Fear and Strangers: A History of Xenophobia*, to be published in the fall of 2021 by W.W. Norton in the USA and Yale University Press in the UK.



Robert Michels, M.D., is the Walsh McDermott University Professor of Medicine, and University Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell, where he supervises and teaches residents. He serves on the Department of Psychiatry’s Appointments and Promotions Committee, and as Chair of the Aaron Stern, M.D., Ph.D. Professorship Search Committee. He is an active member of the DeWitt Wallace Institute’s Working Group on the History of the Mind Sciences. In the first half of 2021 he participated in a Weill Cornell panel titled “The Impact of Narcissism on Larger Social Structures,” and presented a Grand Rounds titled “Psychoanalysis and Contemporary Psychiatry” to the UCSF Fresno Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Michels is Chairman of the Board of Directors of *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.



Orna Ophir, Ph.D., is a scholar and analyst in New York City. During the last year she completed her second book, *Schizophrenia: An Unfinished History*, which is scheduled for publication by Polity Press in May 2022. Two of her lectures were published this year in German publications. She continues to teach an interdisciplinary undergraduate seminar on the history of madness at the Gallatin School for Individualized Studies at NYU, while seeing patients in her private practice, next to supervising post-doctoral clinical psychologists.



Camille Robcis, Ph.D., is Professor of History and French at Columbia University. Her book, *Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy, and Radical Psychiatry in Postwar France* (Chicago UP) was published in May 2021. It maps the intersections of politics, philosophy, and radical psychiatry in twentieth-century France. It focuses on a psychiatric movement called “institutional psychotherapy,” which had an important influence on many intellectuals and activists, including François Tosquelles, Jean Oury, Felix Guattari, Frantz Fanon, Georges Canguilhem, and Michel Foucault. For many of these thinkers, the asylum could function as a microcosm for society at large and as a space to promote non-hierarchical and non-authoritarian political and social structures. Robcis is currently working on a new project, tentatively titled *The Gender Question: Populism, National Reproduction, and the Crisis of Representation* in which she tries to make sense of the protests against the so-called “theory of gender” that have raged in various parts of the world since the 1990s, especially in their conceptual links to populism.



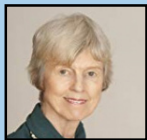
Louis Sass, M.D., continues as Distinguished Professor in the Department of Clinical Psychology, GSAPP—Rutgers University. Sass authored and co-authored numerous articles this year in journals including *Psychopathology*, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, *Schizophrenia Research*, and *Psychosis*. In addition, Sass delivered a number of invited lectures and colloquia, including for the following institutions: III International Congress of Phenomenology and Psychology (Brazil); Université de Marseille, Conference on “Philosophy of Psychiatry”; Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK, London Division & South Eastern Division, Spring conference, plenary talk; Dept of Psychology, Duquesne University; Dept of Art History, University of Illinois at Chicago; Dept of Philosophy University of Memphis; Instituto Dasein, Sao Paulo Brazil; and Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro.



Nirav Soni, Ph.D., ran the Benjamin Rush Fellowship for Payne Whitney residents, working with PGY-2 and PGY-3 fellows on individual tutorials in the history of psychiatry. He also began supervising in the clinical psychology internship program at Payne Whitney. In the Fall of 2020, he presented to the Working Group on the Mind Sciences on Jean Laplanche, and in the Spring of 2021, he presented to the Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Humanities on the relevance of William James’ *Varieties of Religious Experience* to psychoanalysis. He remains a candidate at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, where he serves on the Sandor Rado lecture committee, the International Scholars lecture committee and the program committee. This year, he also began a position as an editorial associate for the editorial board of the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.



Paul Stepanksy, Ph.D., has turned to the history of anti-vaccination in America since publication of his book on the American and Canadian nurses of WWI, *Easing Pain on the Western Front: American Nurses of the Great War and the Birth of Modern Nursing Practice* (McFarland, 2020). His blog, “*Medicine, Health, and History*” (adoseofhistory.com) now includes 54 essays on the shaping impact of medical history on contemporary healthcare, published over the past decade. Essays of the past year include studies of anti-vaccinationism in American history, American-Soviet cooperation in the manufacture and distribution of the Salk polio vaccine at the height of the cold war, and studies of public and governmental responses to 19th-century diphtheria and cholera epidemics (respectively), viewed in relation to contemporary responses to the Corona virus pandemic. Stepanksy is also at work on a memoir of his 30-year career in psychiatric and psychoanalytic publishing, twenty-three of which were spent as Managing Director of The Analytic Press, Inc.



Rosemary Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.H., found the year of the Covid pandemic to be, in positive ways, an enforced sabbatical, tied to a computer off-campus. Having completed editing the observations she made of work and workers in a large British hospital when she was a hospital administrative trainee, during the past year she has been writing about her subsequent experiences as House Governor (administrator) of a London hospital and subsequent immigration to the United States. Dr. Stevens is now considering issues raised by her book, *A Time of Scandal: Charles R. Forbes, Warren G. Harding and the Making of the Veterans Bureau* (2016), whose conclusions center on mythmaking in history; specifically, on the fictional characterization of Colonel Charles R. Forbes, the first director of the nation’s huge, newly organized, politically conflicted U.S. Veterans Bureau. She is focusing on the broad topic of historical memory, as evidenced in nonfictional and fictional accounts of documented events, now a topic of great importance in the political life of this and other nations.



Megan J. Wolff, Ph.D., M.P.H., serves as a policy researcher and administrator at the Institute of Psychiatry, coordinating the seminar series on Issues in Mental Health Policy, conducting research, and writing white papers on policy issues. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Rogers Health Policy Colloquia as well as the Cornell Center for Health Equity. This year she has taken up the role of Richardson Seminar coordinator at the Institute.

Research Faculty Publications

- Dalsimer, A.**, (2021). Encountering Invisible Presence: Virginia Woolf and Julia Duckworth Stephen. In: Camden, V. (Ed.). *Cambridge Companion to Literature and Psychoanalysis*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 73-89.
- Fins, J. J.*** (2020). The Jeremiah Metzger Lecture: Disorders of Consciousness and the Normative Uncertainty of an Emerging Nosology. *Transactions of the American Clinical and Climatological Association*, 131: 235-269.
- _____, & Miller, F.G., (2020). Proportionality, Pandemics and Medical Ethics. *American Journal of Medicine*, 133(11): 1243-1244.
- _____, (2020). Trump's Plunging Blood Oxygen Level is just what the 25th Amendment is for. *The Washington Post*. October 5.
- _____, (2020). Two Patients: Professional Formation before "Narrative Medicine." *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*, 29(4): 642-650.
- _____, (2021). History and Bioethics. *The Hastings Center Report*, 51(2): 3.
- _____. (2021). Science in the Biden White House: Eric Lander, Alondra Nelson and the Legacy of Lewis Thomas. *Hastings Center Bioethics Forum*, February 8.
- _____, (2021). COVID-19 through Time. *Issues in Science and Technology*, 37, no. 3 (Spring): 73-78.
- Friedman, R. A.**, (2021). Why Conspiracy Theories are So Alluring. *The New York Review*, February 12.
- Herzog, D.*** (2020). Moral Reasoning in the Wake of Mass Murder: Disability and Reproductive Rights in 1980s-1990s Germany. *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute*, 66: 9-29.
- _____, (2020). Queering Freud Differently: Radical Psychoanalysis and Ethnography in the 1970s-1980s. *Psychoanalysis and History* 22.1: 1-14.
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- _____, & Geroulanos, S., (2021). Fascisms and Their Afterlives. *Journal of the History of Ideas* 82.1: 73-83.
- Hustvedt, S.*** (2020). Tear Them Down: Siri Hustvedt on Old Statues, Bad Science, and Ideas that Just Won't Die. *Literary Hub*, July 8.
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- _____, (2020). The Long Goodbye to Donald Trump. *El Pais*, November 15.
- _____, (2020). Commentary on Mark Solms "New Project for a Scientific Psychology." *Neuropsychanalysis*, 22, NOS 1-2, 69-72.
- _____, (2021). Amerikas Faschisten: Ich habe Angst vor dem Spektakel, das Trump veranstalten wird. *Der Spiegel*, January 17.
- _____, (2021). Reshuffling the Canon. *Salmagundi*, issue 210/11, Spring/Summer, 69-72.
- _____, (2021). It's About Time. Catalogue essay for Lee Krasner: *Collage Paintings, 1938-1981*. New York: Kasmin.
- Makari, G.J.**, (2020). At Home in the Unseen World. *LA Review of Books*, September 14.
- Michels, R. M.**, (2020). The Psychoanalytic Quarterly Board of Directors appoints new Editor-in-Chief. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. 89(3): 367.
- _____, (2020). The conference as a case. Commentary on "The role of the consultant in the case conference: some neglected aspects," by Michael A. Selzer, M.D. *Psychiatry*. 83(4): 316-317.
- Ophir, O.**, (2020). The Interior Design of the Kleinian Heim: Donald Meltzer and the Afterlife of Freud's Uncanny. In: Krauss, A., Strowick, E., Coelen, M. (Eds.) *Uncanny 101, RISS Zeitschrift für Psychoanalyse Materialien*. 6: 119-132.
- _____, (2021). Psychoanalytische Ausbildung in Amerika: Eine Mikro-Geschichte. In: Hermanns, L.M., Bouville, V., Wagner, C. (Hg.) *Ein Jahrhundert psychoanalytische Ausbildung: Einblicke in: Internationale Entwicklungen*, Berlin: Psychosozial-Verlag, 87-108.
- Robcis, C.** (2021). *Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy, and Radical Psychiatry in Postwar France*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sass, L.*** & Walkup, J. (2020). Virtual realities: On delusion, shame, and intersubjectivity (commentary on: "Portrait of a man imprisoned in an altered state of consciousness: The case of 'Sean'," by Michael Garrett, MD). *Pragmatic Studies in Psychotherapy*, 16 (2): 195-205.
- _____, (2020). Review of Jonathan Hall, *Reaction Formations: Dialogism, Ideology, and Capitalist Culture: The Creation of the Modern Unconscious*. Leiden & Boston: Brill, 2019. *Critical Inquiry*, April 29.
- _____, (2020). "Serious dilettantism: Notes on an impossible profession." (Introduction to special, guest-edited issue on "Philosophy and Psychiatry: Values, Subjectivity, and Expertise"). *Eidos: A Journal for Philosophy of Culture*, 4(2): 1-5.
- _____, (2021, spring). Everywhere and nowhere: Reflections on phenomenology as impossible and indispensable (in psychology and psychiatry). *Critical Inquiry*, 47(3): 544-564.

* Partial Bibliography

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To learn more about any of them [contact the Institute.](#)

Attend a lecture.

The Richardson History of Psychiatry Research Seminar convenes twice a month, presenting finished research and works-in-progress by an interdisciplinary group of scholars. It has the distinction of being the oldest forum in the United States dedicated to the study of the history of psychiatry and the behavioral sciences. Due to the presence of Covid-19, all presentations will occur online until further notice. Please visit our [website](#) for the current program schedule.

Take part in the discussion.

We welcome your input! To offer your thoughts, ask a question, or contribute feedback, please reach out to us [here](#).

Utilize the collection.

The Oskar Diethelm Library is now accepting vaccinated visitors on a limited basis. To make an appointment to conduct research, please contact our [Special Collections Librarian](#). We are also available to assist with scholarly research related to our holdings and answer questions about the collection.

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Planned gifts are a thoughtful way to achieve your philanthropic goals while maximizing your resources and establishing your legacy at the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry. For information on how you can include us in your plans, please contact Development Coordinator Brianne Smalley at bcs2002@med.cornell.edu

Join the Director's Circle.

When Covid safety protocols allow, members of the Director's Circle have the opportunity to join us for special events. We look forward to hosting these events again soon. In the past they have included discussions on Virginia Woolf, the future of psychoanalysis, and performances such as:

Schumann's World: The Music and The Mind

Richard Kogan, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, WCM

On the Couch: A Repressed History of the Analytic Couch from Plato to Freud

Nathan Kravis, M.D., Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, WCM



If you are interested in joining the Director's Circle, please contact Dr. George Makari, Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute of Psychiatry, at gjmakari@med.cornell.edu.

Make a Gift.

The Institute is grateful for the contributions listed here, which enable it to continue to promote research and understanding of psychiatry and the mind sciences.

Gifts were received July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

We would like to express our warm appreciation to the DeWitt Wallace Fund at the New York Community Trust, Dr. Samantha Boardman, Hamilton South, Bara Tisch, David Winter, and Professor Raffaella Cribiore. Thank you to Dr. Kevin Kelly, Dr. Amy Green Clemente and Dr. Jack Clemente, Matt Rosenberger and his father John W. Rosenberger, Janice Quinter, and Dr. Megan Wolff for their donations of books and other items of interest to the library. Thank you also to the estate of Dr. Anna Antonovsky. We extend our gratitude to Jaina Shaw for her volunteer service this year.

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